

REGION 6 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TOPIC: CES Environmental Services (4904 Griggs Rd, Houston, Harris County, Texas)

DATE: 080514

CONTACT: Ronnie Crossland

PURPOSE/ACTION NEEDED: Update

BACKGROUND:

This is a former environmental waste management company. The company filed bankruptcy in August 2010. The bankruptcy was converted into a Chapter 7 liquidation. A trustee was appointed to liquidate the assets. The owner of the company was convicted of environmental crimes and sentenced to prison. The Site is surrounded by residential/school properties on virtually all sides. The site would be considered an environmental justice site.

The Site contains waste materials from the previous operations of the facility. The facility was vandalized on or about the weekend of March 15, 2014 where a tank was opened and waste was discharged to the ground. In addition, 2 tanker trucks, 1 vacuum box, and 7 roll-off boxes were stolen. The materials in the roll-off were dumped onsite. The City of Houston, Trustee Contractor, and TCEQ responded to the incident. The Trustee primarily addressed these issues. TCEQ activated its contractors to address some additional issues to secure the site to minimize the potential for offsite drainage of chemicals should additional spillage occur.

CURRENT STATUS:

The Site containers are in questionable condition but are being monitored by the Trustee's Contractor and TCEQ. These containers have not been maintained since the facility filed bankruptcy in August 2010. In fact, some of the containers (i.e. vacuum boxes) are not intended for long-term storage and are showing signs of failure. EPA has been coordinating with TCEQ since early April 2014 and continues to do so.

TCEQ Emergency Response, August 1, 2014: The Houston Police Department (HPD) contacted EPA concerning a release of some type of hydrocarbon material from the CES facility into roadside ditches. HPD was on-scene and recovered approximately 6000 gallons of contaminated storm water and placed it into a frac tank. TCEQ and EPA both responded to the incident. TCEQ, as lead, mobilized its cleanup contractor to recover contaminated storm water from the ditches and from areas within the facility. An assessment of the residential area identified primarily an oil emulsion (orange in color) on the surface of the water in the ditches with an occasional area of black oil. The staining is primarily within the drainage pathways which includes the roadways in some areas. The suspected source of the spill is an on-site CES tanker trailer, although there are many possible sources that could have contributed.

ENVIRONMENTAL/PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS:

- Public was exposed to this most recent release;
- Continued risk for exposure to the surrounding population
- Hazardous waste in containers that are in questionable condition
- Historical spillage on the property and within the buildings
- Chemical Odors emanating from the facility

TECHNICAL CONCERNS:

- Chemicals will require transfer from questionable DOT shippable containers to DOT shippable containers

- Cleanup costs estimated to be \$1.8 million and with contingency \$2 million

REGULATORY/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:

TCEQ requests EPA Removal Program take lead on site since Trustee is unable to address Site conditions.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS:

- Community is concerned about the abandoned onsite chemicals and the potential for spillage and community exposure due to deterioration of the containers, vandalism, weather, fire, etc.
- Community wants to know why those charged with protecting human health and the environment are not already actively engaged in the cleanup;

RECOMMENDATIONS: Allocate Removal Funding to address site – above ground containers.



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